

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 5188

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UN, KS, KN

SUBJ: KOREA AT 30TH GA: CORE GROUP DISCUSSES CONTINGENCY
PLANNING IF FIRST COMMITTEE ADOPTS BOTH FRIENDLY
AND HOSTILE RESOLUTIONS

1. SUMMARY. UNDER THE PARTICULAR STIMULUS OF NEW ZEALAND, CANADA AND NETHERLANDS, THE CORE GROUP OF 20 OCTOBER DISCUSSED OPTIONS IN THE EVENT THE FIRST COMMITTEE APPROVES BOTH THE FRIENDLY AND HOSTILE KOREA RESOLUTIONS. WHILE STRESSING WE WISHED PRINCIPALLY TO LISTEN AND THAT WE HAVE NO INSTRUCTIONS, WE WERE ABLE TO LEAD THE DISCUSSION TO THE CONCLUSION THAT NO INITIATIVE WHATEVER SHOULD BE TAKEN AT THIS JUNCTURE BECAUSE OF THE CONSEQUENTIAL HARM TO OUR VOTING POSITIONS ON THE TWO RESOLUTIONS AND AGAINST THE MOTION TO REVERSE PRIORITY. THE CORE GROUP AGREED THAT URGENT CONSIDERATION WOULD HAVE TO BE GIVEN TO VARIOUS OPTIONS IF THE FIRST COMMITTEE WERE IN FACT TO APPROVE BOTH TEXTS; THIS COULD TAKE PLACE WITHIN THE EXPECTED 7 TO 10 DAY PERIOD BETWEEN FIRST COMMITTEE VOTING AND CONSIDERATION OF THE MATTER BY THE PLENARY. IT WAS AGREED THAT THESE QUESTIONS SHOULD NOT BE DISCUSSED AT THIS STAGE IN ANY WIDER BODY, SUCH AS THE KOREAN AMBASSADORIAL GROUP.

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2. DETAILS. NEW ZEALAND (MANSFIELD) SET OUT FOUR OPTIONS

FOR DEALING WITH THE "EXPECTED" CONTINGENCY THAT BOTH THE FRIENDLY AND HOSTILE RESOLUTIONS WERE TO PASS THE FIRST COMMITTEE. (WE INTERVENED TO SAY WE DO NOT AGREE THAT THE HOSTILE TEXT WILL PASS AND DESCRIBED CURRENT US INITIATIVES TO DEFEAT IT.) HE DESCRIBED THESE AS (A) A MOTION TO BLOCK THE HOSTILE RESOLUTION FROM COMING TO THE VOTE IN COMMITTEE I FOLLOWING APPROVAL OF THE FRIENDLY TEXT; (B) A MOTION IN LENAR TO TREAT THE COMPETING RESOLUTIONS AS INVOLVING AN "IMPORTANT QUESTION" UNDER ART. 18(2) OF THE CHARTER, EACH THUS REQUIRING A 2/3 MAJORITY FOR ADOPTION; (C) A THIRD-PARTY SERIES OF AMENDMENTS TO THE HOSTILE RESOLUTION, WHETHER IN COMMITTEE I OR PLENARY; AND (D) A THIRD-PARTY COMPROMISE RESOLUTION, WHETHER IN COMMITTEE I OR PLENARY, COUPLED WITH A REQUEST THAT IT SHOULD BE VOTED IN PLACE OF THE FRIENDLY AND HOSTILE TEXTS.

3.BLOCKING. IT WAS RECALLED THAT OUR SIDE HAD TRIED LAST YEAR TO BLOCK COMMITTEE I FROM VOTING ON THE HOSTILE DRAFT AFTER WE HAD SUCCESSFULLY RETAINED PRIORITY AS AGAINST CHALLENGE AND HAD GAINED A SOLID MAJORITY FOR THE FRIENDLY TEXT; THE BLOCKING HAD FAILED BY 9 VOTES. IT WAS RECALLED THAT, AT THE TIME, MANY DELEGATIONS FELT BLOCKING WAS INCONSISTENT WITH THE PREVIOUS PRACTICE OF LETTING COMMITTEE I MEMBER PRONOUNCE THEMSELVES ON EACH TEXT AND WAS "UNFAIR". THE CORE GROUP AGREED THAT WE WOULD BE NO MORE SUCCESSFUL IN BLOCKING THIS YEAR; ONLY A WORLD-WIDE CAMPAIGN COULD CONCEIVABLY PRODUCE A MAJORITY IN FAVOR OF BLOCKING, AND THE COST OF SUCH A CAMPAIGN WOULD BE THE DISSIPATION OF CONCENTRATION AND THE SEARCH FOR VOTES ON THE MOTION TO REVERSE PRIORITY AND THE FRIENDLY AND HOSTILE RESOLUTIONS. TO ADD A FOURTH ISSUE TO OUR LOBBYING AT THIS STAGE WOULD ILL SERVE OUR OBJECTIVES.

4. IMPORTANT QUESTION TACTIC. IT WAS NOTED THAT THE "IQ" IS IRRELEVANT AT THE COMMITTEE STAGE. AS TO PLENARY, IT WAS REPORTED THAT THE UN LEGAL COUNSEL HAD RECENTLY OBSERVED TO ROK AMB. PARK THAT, AS LAST YEAR, HE WOULD REGARD THE HOSTILE RESOLUTION AS REQUIRING A 2/3 MAJORITY FOR ADOPTION BY THE PLENARY WERE HIS OPINION TO BE SOUGHT. THE CORE GROUP AGREED THAT THE IQ WOULD CUT BOTH WAYS; WE COULD

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NOT EXPECT IT COULD BE EMPLOYED TO REQUIRE A 2/3 MAJORITY FOR THE HOSTILE RESOLUTION BUT NOT, AS WELL, 2/3 FOR OURS. MEMBERS OF THE CORE GROUP ALSO RECALLED THE INTENSE DISLIKE OF MANY DELEGATIONS FOR THE IQ BECAUSE OF ITS REPEATED INVOCATION IN THE CHINESE REPRESENTATION ISSUE IN PAST YEARS. SOME THOUGHT GREATER SUPPORT WOULD RESULT IF A "NEUTRAL" LIKE SWEDEN WERE TO RAISE THE IQ IN LENAR ON POINT OF ORDER, BUT IT WAS ALSO POINTED OUT THAT SUBSTANTIAL LOBBYING

WOULD BE REQUIRED TO LAY THE GROUND FOR SUSTAINING SUCH A POINT OF ORDER, AND THE FACT OR THIS LOBBYING WOULD MAKE CLEAR THAT THE ROK GROUP WAS BEHIND THE EFFORT. IT WAS AGREED THAT THE MATTER SHOULD BE PUT ASIDE FOR LATER ASSESSMENT.

5. NEUTRAL AMENDMENTS TO THE HOSTILE RESOLUTION. THE CORE GROUP COULD NOT FORESEE WHO WOULD PUT FORWARD AMENDMENTS IN COMMITTEE AT THE COMMITTEE I OR PLENARY STAGE, NOR WHAT THEIR CONTENTS WOULD BE.

6. NEUTRAL "THIRD" RESOLUTION. THE GROUP AGREED THAT IT, FOR EXAMPLE, AN ASEAN TEXT WERE TO BE PUT FORWARD IN THE COMMITTEE, IT WOULD LIKELY DETRACT FROM OUR VOTING POTENTIAL ON BOTH THE HOSTILE AND FRIENDLY RESOLUTIONS. AS THE UK (HARDIN) OBSERVED, "THIRD" RESOLUTION WOULD MAKE SENSE ONLY IF WE DID NOT HAVE A MAJORITY FOR OUR OWN TEXT. IT WAS AGREED, HOWEVER, THAT SHOULD BOTH RESOLUTIONS BE APPROVED IN COMMITTEE, WE MIGHT WANT TO REVERT AT THE PLENARY STAGE TO THE POSSIBILITY OF A "THIRD" RESOLUTION. IT WAS SUGGESTED THAT IN THIS CIRCUMSTANCE OUR SIDE COULD INDICATE A PROVISIONAL WILLINGNESS NOT TO HAVE THE FRIENDLY TEXT VOTED BY THE PLENARY IF THE OTHER SIDE WOULD AGREE TO FOREGO A VOTE ON THEIRS. THERE WERE DIFFERING ASSESSMENTS IN THE CORE GROUP AS TO WHAT WOULD CONSTITUTE AND ACCEPTABLE "THIRD" RESOLUTION; IT WAS EVIDENT THAT THE US VIEWS THE ASEAN TEXT SUBSTANTIALLY MORE NEGATIVELY THAN, FOR EXAMPLE, NEW ZEALAND, WHICH CONSIDERS IT ESSENTIALLY ACCEPTABLE ASSUMING THAT THE ROK AND US THUS SEE IT. THE ROK EXPLAINED THAT THEY HAVE STRESSED THEIR APPRECIATION FOR ASEAN EFFORTS AND HAVE ASKED THAT THE ASEANS KEEP THE TEXT IN THEIR POCKETS AT LEAST THROUGH THE FIRST COMMITTEE STAGE.

7. COMMENT. BY REPEATEDLY POINTING TO THE HEIGHTENING OF CONFIDENTIAL

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US EFFORTS TO DEFEAT THE HOSTILE RESOLUTION, WE WERE ABLE TO CONVINCE THE OTHERS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF MOVING FORWARD TO THE VOTE IN COMMITTEE WITHOUT DISSIPATING OUR LOBBYING. WE DID THIS WITHOUT INDICATING AUTHORITATIVE VIEWS ON ANY OF THESE OPTIONS, SEEKING ONLY TO NOTE PROCEDURAL AND PARLIAMENTARY CONSIDERATIONS IN CONNECTION WITH EACH OPTION. WE BELIEVE THE DISCUSSION CLEARED THE AIR WITHIN THE CORE GROUP AND SHOULD THUS PERMIT GREATER CONCENTRATION HERE ON LOBBYING AS THE VOTE IN COMMITTEE I APPROACHES. INCIDENTALLY, IT WAS REPORTED THAT THE ALGERIAN GROUP SEEMS UNLIKELY TO PRESS ITS MOTION TO REVERSE PRIORITY AT THE OUTSET OF THE DEBATE ON 21 OCTOBER AND THAT CHAIRMAN GHORRA HAS BEEN WORKING TO ENCOURAGE THE TAKING OF THE VOTE ON THIS MOTION ONLY AT THE END OF THE DEBATE, WHICH WOULD BE AROUND THE 28TH.

8. PLEASE REPEAT AS DESIRED.
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